

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion.

Claims 1-57 are pending in the application, although dependent claims 3-7, 9-11, 14-18, 22, 26, 27, 29, 31, 35-37, 39, 43-46, 48, 52-54 and 56 are withdrawn. Claims 24, 30-33, 38-41, 47-50 and 55-57 are amended.

In the Office Action claims 1, 2, 8, 12, 13, 19, 21, 23-25, 30, 32-34, 38, 40-42, 47, 49-51, 55 and 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. In response, it is submitted that the originally filed specification and drawings enable the claimed features of magnets magnetized in three and four polarities. Specifically, page 30, lines 8-16, with reference to Figures 14-18, of the specification explains that a magnet magnetized in three polarities can be structured such that a front surface has three regions, each region having a north or south pole, such as two regions having north poles and one region having a south pole as shown in the figures. Based on this description, it is similarly understood that a magnet magnetized in four polarities can be structure such that a front surface has four regions, each region having a north or south pole. Further, page 42, line 24 to page 43, line 1, states that three- and four-pole magnetized magnets can be used in a magnetic circuit. It is therefore requested that the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

In the Office Action claims 24, 25, 30, 32-34, 38, 40-42, 47, 49, 50, 51, 55 and 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In response, the claims are amended to remove improper recitations of “the inclination,” “the sum of drive forces,” “the center of gravity,” “the difference,” “the printed circuit board,” and to clarify the mounting of the coils. It is requested that the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

In the Office Action claims 30, 47, and 55 are objected to because of informalities. In response, the claims are amended in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestion. It is requested that the objection to the claims be withdrawn.

In the Office Action claims 1, 2, 8, 12, 13, 19, 21, 23-25, 30, 32-34, 38, 40-42, 47, 49-51, 55 and 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication No. 10-116431 to Ikegame. It is requested that the rejection be withdrawn, and that the claims be allowed, for the following reasons.

The present invention, as set forth in independent claim 1, is directed to an objective lens drive apparatus for use in an optical pickup. Specifically, the independent claim recites a magnetic circuit including a magnet magnetized in at least three polarities, and a coil unit including a focus coil, a tracking coil and a tilt coil. The focus coil, the tracking coil and the tilt coil are disposed within a magnetic gap of the magnetic circuit.

Ikegame is directed to an objective lens driving device. It is submitted that Ikegame does not disclose or render obvious the claimed features of a magnetic circuit including a magnet magnetized in at least three polarities. Rather, as shown in Figures 13-15 of Ikegame, each of the magnets is magnetized in at most two polarities. For example, each of the magnets 8 is magnetized in two polarities.

For these reasons, it is requested that the rejection of independent claim 1 be withdrawn, and the allowance of claim 1 is requested.

Independent claims 12, 24, 33, 41 and 50 are allowable for reasons similar to those of independent claim 1. It is requested that the rejection of the independent claims be withdrawn, and that independent claims 12, 24, 33, 41 and 50 be allowed.

The remaining claims, including the withdrawn claims, are allowable for the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend, as well as for their own features.

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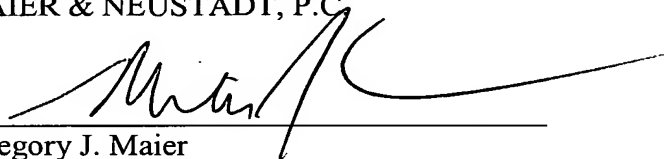
It is therefore requested that the withdrawn claims be treated on the merits, and that the dependent claims be allowed.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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